Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A message-passing system, comprising:

a. a first client system configured to transmit a message packet containing a priority ~~to a second client system~~; and

b. a second client system configured to receive the message packet <u>transmitted</u> from the first client system and process the message packet <u>in an order relative to other message packets</u> based on the priority.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 1, wherein the ~~message packet is transmitted from the~~ first client system <u>is configured to transmit the message packet</u> to the second client system according to a transport protocol.

Claim 3 (original): The message-passing system of claim 2, wherein the transport protocol is TCP/IP.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 2, wherein the transport protocol is ~~NetBUI~~ <u>NetBEUI</u>.

Claim 5 (original): The message-passing system of claim 1, wherein the message packet is formatted according to an SGML standard.

Claim 6 (original): The message-passing system of claim 5, wherein the SGML standard is XML.

Claim 7 (original): The message-passing system of claim 6, wherein the message packet comprises text data.

Claim 8 (original): The message-passing system of claim 6, wherein the message packet comprises a virtual object.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 1, further comprising a first message server coupling the first client system to the second client system, the first message server providing a first communication path between the first client system and the second client system.

Claim 10 (original): The message-passing system of claim 9, further comprising a log server coupled to the first message server, the log server configured to store log data for the message packet.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 9, further comprising a diagnostics server coupled to the first message server, the diagnostics server configured to store log data for the message packet and to map error codes contained in message packets to corrective actions.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 9, further comprising:
    [[a.]]   a second message server coupled to the first client system and the second client system, the second message server providing a second communication path between the first client system and the second client system; and
    [[b.]]   a load balancer coupling the first client system to both the first message server and the second message server, the load balancer further coupling the second client system to both the first message server and the second message server.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The message-passing system of claim 1, further comprising a manufacturing equipment having an associated parameter, the manufacturing system equipment coupled to the first client system, wherein the first client system is configured to monitor the associated parameter, generate the priority based on the parameter, generate the message packet containing the priority, and transmit the message packet to the second client system.

Claim 14 (original): The message-passing system of claim 13, wherein the manufacturing equipment comprises a semiconductor processing system.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of passing a message packet between a first client system and a second client system, the method comprising:

a. generating [[a]] the message packet containing a priority on the first client system;

b. transmitting the message packet from the first client system to the second client system;

c. receiving the message packet on the second client system; and

d. processing the message packet on the second client system ~~according to~~ in an order relative to other message packets based on the priority.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the message packet is transmitted from the first client system to the second client system according to a transport protocol.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the transport protocol is TCP/IP.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the transport protocol is ~~NetBUI~~ NetBEUI.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein generating [[a]] the message packet comprises formatting a message according to an SGML standard.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19, wherein the SGML standard is XML.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the message packet comprises text data.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the message packet comprises a virtual object.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising storing log data for the message packet.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein transmitting the message packet comprises:

      [[a.]]   transmitting the message packet to a message server based on a load of the message server; and

      [[b.]]   transmitting the message packet from the message server to the second client system.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein generating [[a]] the message packet comprises encrypting a message to generate an encrypted message and including the encrypted message in the message packet.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 25, wherein processing the message packet comprises decrypting the encrypted message in the message packet.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising before the step (a):

      [[a.]]   reading a parameter associated with a manufacturing equipment; and

      [[b.]]   generating the priority based on the parameter.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A sending client system configured to generate a message packet containing a priority for determining an order in which the message packet is processed relative to other message packets on a receiving client system and to transmit [[a]] the message packet containing a priority to [[a]] the receiving client system, the receiving client system configured to process the message packet based on the priority.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The sending client system of claim 28 comprising a messaging module, the messaging module configured to assign [[a]] the priority to a message to form the message packet, the messaging module further configured to transmit the message packet to the receiving client system according to a transport protocol.

Claim 30 (original): The sending client system of claim 29, wherein the transport protocol is TCP/IP.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The sending client system of claim 29, wherein the transport protocol is ~~NetBUI~~ NetBEUI.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A receiving client system configured to receive a message packet containing a priority from a sending client system, the receiving client system ~~configure~~ configured to process the message packet in an order relative to other message packets based on the priority.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The receiving client system of claim 32 comprising a messaging module, the messaging module configured to receive the message packet from [[a]] the sending client system according to a transport protocol, the messaging module further configured to process the message packet in the order based on the priority.

Claim 34 (original): The receiving client system of claim 33, wherein the transport protocol is TCP/IP.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The receiving client system of claim 33, wherein the transport protocol is ~~NetBUI~~ NetBEUI.

Claim 36 (new): The message-passing system of claim 1, wherein the second client system comprises a priority queue configured for processing the message packet in the order based on the priority.